

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01842 191533Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /050 W
-----191536Z 011842 /43

O R 191509Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2289
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SY
SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S CLINTON,
MASS STATEMENTS

1. SYRIAN MEDIA ACCORDED PRESIDENT'S M.E. STATEMENTS TO CLINTON, MASS. TOWN MEETING PROMINENT COVERAGE. ALL SYRIAN DAILIES MARCH 18 REPORTED STATEMENTS ON FRONT PAGE, AND THAWRA HEADLINED "CARTER OUTLINES THREE CONDITIONS FOR PEACE IN AREA, AMONG WHICH IS NEED TO ESTABLISH PALESTINIAN HOMELAND. PLO WELCOMES CARTER'S DECLARATIONS AND CONSIDERS THEM POSITIVE".

2. SYRIAN NEWS BROADCAST NOTED THAT "THIS FIRST TIME RESPONSIBLE U.S. OFFICIAL HAS PUBLICLY ADOPTED POSITION WHICH SUPPORTS ESTABLISHMENT PALESTINIAN HOMELAND. OBSERVERS NOTE THAT CARTER AVOIDED DEFINING WHETHER THIS HOMELAND WOULD BE IN FORM OF INDEPENDENT ENTITY OR NOT, AND ADD THAT AMBIGUITY CONCERNING IDEA OF HOMELAND PREVENTS KNOWING AT THIS STAGE EXACTLY WHAT IT MEANS". ARTICLE IN THAWRA
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STATED "THE TERM HOMELAND GIVES ROOM FOR VISUALIZING SOLUTION BASED ON JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN STATE."

3. ARTICLES DID NOT ENGAGE IN FURTHER SPECULATION BUT DID REPORT THAT ISRAEL WILL REQUEST CLARIFICATIONS FROM U.S. ABOUT CLINTON STATEMENTS. AFP REPORT QUOTED SAYING "OBSERVERS SEE AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S DECLARATION AS

CONFIRMING THE PREVAILING IMPRESSION ON EVOLUTION OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE AND THAT CARTER INTENDS ADOPT MORE ACTIVE STAND THAN THAT OF HIS PREDECESSORS IN THIS REGARD".

4. MEDIA AVOIDED ALL MENTION OF PRESIDENT'S REFERENCES TO NEED FOR ARABS OVER PERIOD OF MONTHS AND YEARS TO OPEN BORDER TO TRAVEL, TOURISM, ETC. THIS ACCORDS WITH SYRIA'S CURRENT POSITION THAT ESTABLISHING PEACE AND ENDING STATE OF WAR ARE VIRTUALLY SYNONYMOUS; EXCLUSION UNDOUBTEDLY RESULT OF SARG DIRECTION.

5. MARCH 19 MEDIA REPORTED WIDELY VARYING WORLD REACTIONS TO CARTER STATEMENTS UNDER HEADLINE "ISRAELI RESENTMENT AND PALESTINIAN SATISFACTION WITH CARTER'S STATEMENTS". NO EDITORIALS ON FURTHER SYRIAN REACTION REPORTED. LEAD STORY ON RADIO AND IN PRESS WAS CARTER'S STATEMENT TO SYRIAN PERMREP ALLAF THAT HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING WITH PRES. ASAD IN MAY.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, SPEECHES, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Subject: SYRIAN MEDIA REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S CLINTON, MASS STATEMENTS
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